

From: Bulletin Intelligence
To: Interior@BulletinIntelligence.com
Subject: U S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, September 20, 2017
Date: Wednesday, September 20, 2017 7:02:50 AM

Mobile version and searchable archives available [here](#). Please [click here](#) to subscribe.

[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



DATE: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2017 7:00 AM EDT

Today's Table Of Contents

DOI In The News

- The Hill: Zinke Puts 'Big Buck Hunter' In Interior Dept Cafeteria To Promote Hunting.
- The Hill: Senate Panel Approves Trump Energy Nominees.
- Farmington (NM) Daily Times: Company Named To Build Next Step Of Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project.
- Joplin (MO) Globe: Wonders Of Wildlife Prepares For Opening.
- Cleveland Plain Dealer: Trump Promise To Restore Mount McKinley Name Is Up In The Air.
- Portland (OR) Tribune: ODOT Gets \$1 Million To Clean Up Wildfire Damage.
- Black Hills (SD) Pioneer: SD Congressional Delegation Continues To Fight For DC Booth.

- Federal News Radio (DC): Kevin Bogardus: Obama Appointees Negotiated Next Job While On The Job At Interior.
- The Hill: Preserving An American Tradition: Maintaining Access And Increasing Opportunities On Our Public Lands.
- Sacramento (CA) Bee: More Logging On Public Land Means More Wildfires.
- Bend (OR) Bulletin: Editorial: Cascade-Siskiyou Should Be Shrunk.
- Las Vegas Review-Journal: A Smaller Gold Butte No Big Deal.
- The Guardian (UK): Bears Ears Is Sacred To Native Americans.
- Concord (NH) Monitor: Don't Mess With National Monuments.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

- Hearing Scheduled For Act That Would Grant Lumbee Full Federal Recognition.
- Island Near NE Tip Of Minnesota Returned To Chippewa Band.
- Stink Over Acme Sewer.

Bureau Of Land Management

- Daily Caller: Obama Turned 'A Blind Eye' To Fired Interior Official's Corruption, GOP Rep Says.
- Grand Junction (CO) Daily Sentinel: BLM Rounds Up 86 Horses Near Rangely.
- Las Cruces (NM) Sun-News: BLM And Partners Sponsor National Public Lands Day Events.

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

- Block Island Wind Farm Tracking Birds and Bats.
- Fishing Industry Takes More Action Against New York Offshore Wind Lease.

Bureau Of Reclamation

- Westlands Water District Says It Won't Help Pay For Delta Tunnels.

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

- Scott Angelle Says The Country Should Focus On 'Energy Dominance'.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- Arizona Republic: The Wall — Eminent Domain May Claim Private Property For Trump Wall.
- Associated Press: Federal Officials Designate Mississippi Fish As Threatened.
- Big Island (HI) Now: 'I'iwi Receives Protection Under Endangered Species Act.
- Palm Beach (FL) Post: West Palm Sues US Agencies Over State Road 7 Extension Approval.
- Watertown (NY) Daily Times: Ritchie Calls On Federal Government To Move Quickly On Cormorant Management.
- Chinook (WA) Observer: Refuge Plans New 'Gateway To The Outdoors'.
- Daily Inter Lake (MT): DNRC Faces Tough Questions At Bottling-plant Hearing.
- U.S. News & World Report: California Condor Takes Flight In Wild After Near Extinction.
- Los Angeles Times: The Oil-Drunk Trump Administration Needs To Leave Alaska Refuge Alone.
- San Jose (CA) Mercury News: Airbnb For Monarch Butterflies Can Prevent Demise.

National Park Service

- Washington Times: National Mall Faces Space Crunch For Global War On Terror Memorial.
- Newsweek: Man Arrested For Using Penny To Deface Lincoln Memorial.
- WAMU-FM Washington: D.C. Councilmember Says National Park Service Would Charge Him With Trespassing For Removing Confederate Statue.
- Fox News: NAACP Pushes To Remove Battle Of Chickamauga Monument In Tennessee.
- Baltimore Patch: Federal Grant To Send Baltimore Students On Field Trips To 3 Historical Sites.
- U.S. News & World Report: Docks, Marinas Get Repaired After Microburst On Lake Powell.
- WNEP-TV Scranton (PA): Fly Fishing On A Day Of Healing For Veterans.
- KMPH-TV Fresno (CA): 49 Become U.S. Citizens At Yosemite National Park.
- Napa Valley (CA) Register: New Muir Woods Reservation System Aims To Reduce Overcrowding, Traffic Congestion.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- ABC: Trump Declares Emergency As Hurricane Maria Heads Toward Puerto Rico.

US Geological Survey

- ABC: Earthquake Outside Mexico City Kills At Least 226.

Top National News

- ABC: Trump Slams "Rocket Man" At UN, Threatens To "Totally Destroy" North Korea.
- ABC: Trump At UN: Iran Nuclear Deal An "Embarrassment."
- CBS: Trump Calls Out Venezuela, Cuba In UN Speech.
- CBS: In UN Speech, Trump Vows To Always Put America First.
- ABC: White House Joins Graham-Cassidy Push, But Bill's Prospects Remain Uncertain.
- Associated Press: Senate Republicans Tentatively Agree On \$1.5 Trillion Tax Cut Plan.
- Washington Free Beacon: Report: Cutting Wasteful Spending Would Balance Budget In Three Years.
- Fox News: Pruitt Questions Whether Climate Change Is An "Existential Threat."
- E&E Publishing: Federal Report On Climate To Be Released In November.

Editorial Wrap-Up

- New York Times.
 - "Warmongers And Peacemakers At The UN."
 - "Even College Doesn't Bridge The Racial Income Gap."
- Washington Post.
 - "Another Execrable Healthcare Bill Proves Bad Ideas Never Die."
 - "Trump Undermines His Own Advocacy For Human Dignity."
 - "Who Pays For The White House To Lawyer Up?"
- Wall Street Journal.
 - "Trump Shock At Turtle Bay."
 - "James Madison Weeps."
 - "All Mr. Comey's Wiretaps."

Big Picture

- Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Washington Schedule

- Today's Events In Washington.

Last Laughs

- Late Night Political Humor.

DOI In The News

Zinke Puts 'Big Buck Hunter' In Interior Dept Cafeteria To Promote Hunting.

In its "Blog Briefing Room" blog, [The Hill](#) (9/19, Delk) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke added the "Big Buck Hunter" arcade game to the Interior Department's cafeteria this week. Zinke installed "the hunting themed arcade game in the cafeteria in an effort to promote hunting, announcing the addition in a tweet on Tuesday." Zinke tweeted, "To highlight #sportsmen contributions 2 conservation I installed Big Buck Hunter in the employee cafeteria. Get excited for #hunting season!"

Also reporting are the [Washington Examiner](#) (9/19, Siciliano), [CNN International](#) (9/19, Tatum), [USA Today](#) (9/19, King), the [Shreveport \(LA\) Times](#) (9/19, King), [WENY-TV Elmira \(NY\)](#) Elmira, NY (9/19, Tatum), and [WZVN-TV Fort Myers \(FL\)](#) Fort Myers, FL (9/19, Tatum).

Senate Panel Approves Trump Energy Nominees.

[The Hill](#) (9/19, Cama) reports the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on Tuesday "approved five of President Trump's nominees for energy positions in the federal government." The Hill says senators "easily approve[d]" Federal Energy Regulatory Commission nominees Kevin McIntyre and Richard Glick, "Ryan Nelson to be the Interior Department's solicitor, Joseph Balash to be Interior's assistant secretary for land and mineral management and David Jonas to be general counsel at the Energy Department." The votes "send all of the nominees to the full Senate for a confirmation vote, which has not yet been scheduled." DOE and Interior "currently have only two Senate-confirmed officials, making it difficult for the Trump administration to move

on some of its major policy priorities at those departments.”

Also reporting are the [Washington Examiner](#) (9/19, Siciliano, Seigel), [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (9/19, Martinson), the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (9/20, Harmon), [Law360](#), and [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (9/19, Bradley).

Company Named To Build Next Step Of Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project.

The [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (9/19) reports that the Bureau of Reclamation has “awarded a \$62 million construction contract to build a section of pipeline for the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project.” The Interior Department “announced on Sept. 15 that the contract was awarded to Oscar Renda Contracting Inc., a subsidiary of Southland Holdings in Roanoke, Texas.” Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said in a release, “The project is critical to providing a much-needed, long-term, sustainable water supply for people on the Navajo and Jicarilla Apache reservations and the City of Gallup. It is also the cornerstone of our commitments under the Navajo Nation San Juan River Water Rights Settlement.”

Wonders Of Wildlife Prepares For Opening.

The [Joplin \(MO\) Globe](#) (9/20, Goodwin) reports that the Wonders of Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium will “open to the public on Friday, but it was open Tuesday for a media preview at its adjoining location with Bass Pro Shops at East Sunshine and South Campbell avenues in Springfield.” A gala Wednesday is “expected to be attended by former Presidents George W. Bush and Jimmy Carter; U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke; Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens; conservation leaders; and celebrities.”

Trump Promise To Restore Mount McKinley Name Is Up In The Air.

The [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#) (9/19, Eaton) reports that after promising to reverse the name change of Mount McKinley to Denali while campaigning, President Trump has “been silent on whether the mountain’s name should be changed.” The article notes that earlier this year, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “told Alaskan media the peak should keep the name Denali.”

ODOT Gets \$1 Million To Clean Up Wildfire Damage.

The [Portland \(OR\) Tribune](#) (9/19) reports the Oregon Department of Transportation will receive a \$1 million emergency relief grant from the US Department of Transportation “to clean up roads and highways damaged or threatened by the summer’s wildfires.” The Tribune attributes the grant to the work of Oregon’s Congressional delegation, particularly Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley. [KATU-TV](#) Portland, OR (9/19) and [KPTV-TV](#) Portland, OR (9/19) also reported on the grant.

SD Congressional Delegation Continues To Fight For DC Booth.

The [Black Hills \(SD\) Pioneer](#) (9/19, Watson) reports that “South Dakota’s congressional delegation has requested vacant employee positions at the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery and Archives be filled.” A letter sent Monday to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service “outlined the importance of the hatchery as well as the staffing decline since officials at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service began discussing the closure of the hatchery in June 2013.” The delegation of Sens. John Thune, and Mike Rounds, and Rep. Kristi Noem, wrote, “The D.C. Booth Fish Hatchery is critically important to the Spearfish community, its economy, and its residents, as more than 160,000 people visit the Hatchery each year. The Hatchery has provided jobs and volunteer opportunities in the community, and it exemplifies a successful federal public lands partnership.”

Kevin Bogardus: Obama Appointees Negotiated Next Job While On The Job At Interior.

[Federal News Radio \(DC\)](#) (9/19) reports that “a half dozen Interior Department appointees were negotiating private sector jobs toward the end of the Obama administration.” According to the report, “they recused themselves from important policy deliberations.”

Preserving An American Tradition: Maintaining Access And Increasing Opportunities On Our Public Lands.

For the “Congress” blog of [The Hill](#) (9/19, Bishop), Rep. Rob Bishop, chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources, writes that “to ensure conservation and economic growth can be created by our federal lands, it is important to have access to outdoor activities on America’s public lands, and to have secure Second and Tenth Amendment rights.” Bishop urges Congress to

pass the “Sportsmen’s Heritage and Recreational Enhancement (SHARE) Act.” According to Bishop, “maintaining access and increasing opportunities on our public lands will help ensure our natural resources are conserved in perpetuity, and helps sustain good, family supporting jobs for millions of Americans.”

More Logging On Public Land Means More Wildfires.

In an op-ed for the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (9/19, Ambrose, Baxter), Anthony Ambrose and Wendy Baxter, both with the Department of Integrative Biology at UC Berkeley, highlight “the remarkable differences in wildfires in unlogged areas versus clear-cut forestland.” They argue that “protecting Giant Sequoia National Monument doesn’t just make scientific sense, it reduces risk of mega-fires – a risk that is now amplified in Cascades-Siskiyou National Monument in Oregon, which has been recommended for significant cutbacks.” They are dismayed that “timber industry executives – and now the Trump administration – continue to pursue their logging agenda that will leave forests irreversibly damaged and open to fire.” The authors warn that “increased commercial logging in these forests will result in the removal of the largest, most ecologically important and fire-resistant trees.”

Editorial: Cascade-Siskiyou Should Be Shrunk.

In an editorial, the [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (9/19) agrees with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s recommendation that the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument should be shrunk. The paper highlights that in his recommendation, “Zinke notes that the expanded monument contains more than 40,000 acres of Oregon and California Railroad Revested Lands (O&C Lands) that were set aside by Congress in 1937 to provide sustained timber harvest funds for Klamath County and every county west of the Cascade Mountains summit but Clatsop.” The paper concludes that “unlike his predecessors, Zinke clearly sees the value of keeping public land open to the public and assuring that earlier promises such as those given when the O&C Lands were set aside in 1937 be honored.”

A Smaller Gold Butte No Big Deal.

In an editorial, the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (9/20) supports downsizing the Gold Butte National Monument. The paper notes that “monuments designated under the Antiquities Act are supposed to be confined to the ‘smallest’ area necessary to protect the objects deserving of protection.” It concludes that “the idea that a slight reduction in Gold Butte’s size will result in environmental catastrophe — particularly in a state where some 85 percent of the land is already under the domain of distant Beltway bureaucrats — is patently ridiculous.”

Bears Ears Is Sacred To Native Americans.

But Heritage Isn’t All Equal For Trump. In an op-ed for [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (9/19, NoiseCat), Julian Brave NoiseCat, criticizes Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s recommendation to shrink the Bears Ears National Monument. According to NoiseCat, “Bears Ears is one of the most powerful and historic cultural and spiritual centers of the first peoples of the south-west.”

Don’t Mess With National Monuments.

In an editorial, the [Concord \(NH\) Monitor](#) (9/20), credits Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke for visiting “most or all of the 27 monuments on Trump’s list before making his recommendations.” The paper notes that “the nation should keep the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, he said, but he went on to suggest that the park allow ‘active timber management.’” The editorial says that “if Zinke means commercial logging, his plan should be opposed. If it’s instituted, lawsuits should be launched.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Hearing Scheduled For Act That Would Grant Lumbee Full Federal Recognition.

[WBTW-TV](#) Florence-Myrtle Beach, SC (9/19, McGee) reports that the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Indian, Insular, and Alaska Native Affairs “announced Tuesday that a hearing has been scheduled for Congressman Robert Pittenger’s Lumbee Recognition Act.” Pittenger said, “This is the next step in bringing Lumbee recognition up for a vote. We are working closely with the Lumbee Tribe and other leaders to ensure a strong showing next Tuesday.” The hearing was scheduled for September 26.

Island Near NE Tip Of Minnesota Returned To Chippewa Band.

The [AP](#) (9/19) reports that an island off the northeast tip of Minnesota has been returned to the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. Grand Portage Chairman Norman Deschampe “says the band appreciates the role The Nature Conservancy played in restoring the island to tribal ownership.” The Bureau of Indian Affairs “agreed to place the island in trust on the band’s behalf.”

Also reporting are the [Duluth \(MN\) News Tribune](#) (9/19, Myers) and [WDIO-TV Duluth \(MN\)](#) Duluth, MN (9/19).

Stink Over Acme Sewer.

The [Traverse City \(MI\) Record-Eagle](#) (9/19, Troutman) reports that “an Acme Township development likely won’t be impacted by a letter from Gov. Rick Snyder’s office to a federal agency.” However, “the two-page note sent in June could delay Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians officials’ bid to put 158 acres of land near Meijer into trust — an action that will make it effectively tax exempt.” According to the article, “the letter informs the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs of a long-standing sanitary sewer permit violation on the property.”

Bureau Of Land Management

Obama Turned ‘A Blind Eye’ To Fired Interior Official’s Corruption, GOP Rep Says.

The [Daily Caller](#) (9/19, Pearce) reports that Rep. Rob Bishop “accused the Obama administration of ignoring the unethical and illegal behavior of a former Department of the Interior official Monday.” Bishop “made the charge after Bureau of Land Management (BLM) law enforcement official Dan Love was fired Friday.” Bishop said in a statement, “The previous administration turned a blind eye to corruption and promoted a culture of mismanagement at the Department of the Interior. I applaud Interior for taking a strong stand and reasserting the basic principle that there are consequences for federal employees who blatantly disregard the law and steamroll elected officials and public trust. Love’s exit is welcome.”

BLM Rounds Up 86 Horses Near Rangely.

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (9/20, Webb) reports that the Bureau of Land Management has “wrapped up a wild-horse removal project south of Rangely after capturing 86 animals.” The BLM “ended the helicopter-based operation Monday.” According to the article, “eighty-five of the horses were shipped to the BLM’s Cañon City holding facility and will be made available for adoption or sale.” The article says that “one colt that was about 4 months old was euthanized based on an on-scene veterinarian’s recommendation because it had a pre-existing severe leg injury.”

BLM And Partners Sponsor National Public Lands Day Events.

The [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (9/19) reports that “the Bureau of Land Management, Friends of the Organ Mountains and Southern New Mexico Trail Alliance are sponsoring three events Saturday, Sept. 30, to celebrate National Public Lands Day.” The events will be held at the Dripping Springs Natural Area.

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Block Island Wind Farm Tracking Birds and Bats.

[Offshore Wind](#) (9/19) reports that Deepwater Wind has “installed a wildlife tracking station on the easternmost foundation platform at the Block Island wind farm, America’s first offshore wind farm, to assist researchers in their studies of bird and bat activity off the Atlantic Coast.” The project, funded by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, will “provide researchers from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the University of Rhode Island (URI) and the University of Massachusetts (UMass) Amherst with data on offshore movement of high priority species to inform conservation efforts.”

Additional coverage was provided by [North American Windpower](#) (9/19, Lillian) and [Power Engineering](#) (9/19).

Fishing Industry Takes More Action Against New York Offshore Wind Lease.

[North American Windpower](#) (9/19, Lillian) reports that “a group of fishing organizations, businesses and communities, led by the Fisheries Survival Fund (FSF), has taken more action to halt the lease of Statoil’s planned wind farm off the coast of New York.” The suit, filed against the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, is “seeking summary judgment and requesting the court to invalidate the lease, which was awarded to Norwegian firm Statoil to develop the New York Wind Energy Area (NY WEA) late last year.” The groups claim “BOEM’s process for awarding the lease failed to properly consider the planned wind farm’s impact on area fish populations and habitats, shoreside communities, safety, and navigation.”

Bureau Of Reclamation

Westlands Water District Says It Won’t Help Pay For Delta Tunnels.

The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (9/19, Kasler, Sabalow) reports that “an influential group of San Joaquin Valley farmers Tuesday voted against helping to pay for the Delta tunnels, denying Gov. Jerry Brown crucial financial support for the \$17.1 billion project.” Westlands Water District’s board of directors “voted 7-1 against participating in the project, known officially as California WaterFix.” Westlands is “the first major water agency to vote on the project, and other big districts are expected to make their decisions in the coming weeks.”

In an editorial, the [Stockton \(CA\) Record](#) (9/19) says that the audit that showed the Interior Department, “secretly, and improperly, contributed nearly \$85 million” toward the Delta tunnels erodes the public’s trust. The paper questions why people should believe proponents who “say the project will not have a detrimental impact on the Delta.” The editorial concludes that “state officials should realize these tunnels are not the way to solve California’s water woes and that underhanded dealings will only continue to erode any efforts to solve this problem.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (9/19, Smith) and the [Ventura County \(CA\) Star](#) (9/19).

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

Scott Angelle Says The Country Should Focus On ‘Energy Dominance’.

The [Lafayette \(LA\) Daily Advertiser](#) (9/19, Stickney) reports that Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement director Scott Angelle spoke Tuesday to the Louisiana Oil & Gas Association autumn meeting. He said, “The country can find its energy vision by not settling for the 1980s goal of energy independence. We’re seeking energy dominance.” Angelle asserted that the Trump Administration can promote energy development without “relaxing environmental protections.” He said, “One-hundred percent of the people in this room enjoy the beach, clean air, a morning hunt or walking in the park. I refuse to believe this group cares less about the environment than others.”

Fish And Wildlife Service

The Wall — Eminent Domain May Claim Private Property For Trump Wall.

In a series of comprehensive pieces, the Arizona Republic examines various issues with the border, including the proposed border wall, the danger faced by border crossers, and the work of Border Patrol agents, among other issues. In a 3,000-word piece, the [Arizona Republic](#) (9/19) reports on the potential use of eminent domain to claim private property for the border wall. In another piece, the [Arizona Republic](#) (9/19) reports on the death of Border Patrol agent Brian Terry, and his family’s quest to ensure more security along the border. The [Arizona Republic](#) (9/19) separately reports in a 9,000-word piece about a “mission...to film the border, evaluate the existing fences, document this invisible line as it exists in 2017 – before any construction begins on what President Donald Trump has repeatedly called ‘a big, beautiful wall.’” The [Arizona Republic](#) (9/19) also reports on commerce along the border and the possibility that a tax on Mexican imports may be used to pay for the border wall. The [Arizona Republic](#) (9/19) also features an examination of the endangered species in the border area and how a border wall could affect the species. The [Arizona Republic](#) (9/19) reports on the dangers faced by border crossers in a separate piece, including environmental and dealing with human smuggling organizations tied to the cartels. The [Arizona Republic](#) (9/19) separately reports on deaths of

migrant crossers who take “risky” paths to avoid Border Patrol agents. The [Arizona Republic](#) (9/19) also reports on US ranchers along the border and their “run-ins with border crossers and drug mules.” The [Arizona Republic](#) (9/19) reports on the presence of vigilantes who patrol the border looking for “smugglers or drug traffickers,” specifically the Arizona Border Recon Group who “volunteer to patrol border land” and are “armed with rifles and guns.” In a separate piece, the [Arizona Republic](#) (9/19) reports on the Tohono O’odham people and the effect a border wall may have in dividing the tribe. Finally, the [Arizona Republic](#) (9/19) reports on the work and risks faced by the Border Patrol, who are often alone and can “go without seeing another living being” during patrol shifts.

Federal Officials Designate Mississippi Fish As Threatened.

The [AP](#) (9/19, Amy) reports that the pearl darter will “soon be designated as threatened, federal authorities said Tuesday.” The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service “proposed the listing last year and will make it official on October 20.” According to FWS spokeswoman Connie Dickard, “the listing will have little impact on private property owners.”

‘I’iwi Receives Protection Under Endangered Species Act.

[Big Island \(HI\) Now](#) (9/19) reports that “the ‘i’iwi, also known as the scarlet honeycreeper, will be protected as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act, the US Fish and Wildlife Service announced.” The FWS “determined that listing was warranted based on a review of the best information available for the ‘i’iwi, gained through exhaustive research, public comments and independent scientific peer reviews.” Mary Abrams, project leader for the Service’s Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office, said, “In recent years, the ‘i’iwi population has been in sharp decline, due to threats from habitat loss, invasive species and avian diseases, particularly avian malaria. These threats have affected all forest birds, not just the ‘i’iwi. Conservation that benefits the ‘i’iwi will undoubtedly benefit other Hawaiian forest birds.”

Also reporting is the [Maui \(HI\) Time Weekly](#) (9/19, Pignataro).

West Palm Sues US Agencies Over State Road 7 Extension Approval.

The [Palm Beach \(FL\) Post](#) (9/19, Kennedy) reports that the city of West Palm Beach, Florida “filed in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia on Sept. 12, against the Army Corps of Engineers, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Federal Highway Administration and Environmental Protection Agency” for approvals made on the State Road 7 project. The city sued the agencies for approving the “unnecessary and environmentally harmful roadway project in violation of multiple environmental laws.”

Also reporting is [WPEC-TV West Palm Beach \(FL\)](#) West Palm Beach, FL (9/19, Maradiaga).

Ritchie Calls On Federal Government To Move Quickly On Cormorant Management.

The [Watertown \(NY\) Daily Times](#) (9/20, Block) reports that state Sen. Patricia A. Ritchie is “calling on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to move more quickly to give states the ability to manage double-crested cormorants.” Ritchie said, “This is something that needs to be dealt with now. The data is out there, I don’t think any more data is needed to confirm the cormorant population was out of control and affecting the fishing industry.” Meanwhile, the FWS is “planning to release a draft environmental assessment “within weeks” that could give some authority for local residents to kill the birds in select circumstances.”

Refuge Plans New ‘Gateway To The Outdoors’.

The [Chinook \(WA\) Observer](#) (9/19, Nile) reports that the Willapa National Wildlife Refuge has “rough designs for a new headquarters and visitor center that could be built at either one of the two sites being considered on the federal preserve.” Manager Jackie Ferrier “said the staff has long outgrown its offices in a cramped 1940s building at 3888 U.S. Highway 101.” According to the article, “although the project has yet to be funded, officials have been taking in design and site ideas at public meetings.”

DNRC Faces Tough Questions At Bottling-plant Hearing.

The [Daily Inter Lake \(MT\)](#) (9/19, Reilly) reports that “the Montana Artesian Water Company’s plan to bottle Creston’s groundwater drew fresh scrutiny Tuesday morning.” Montana’s Department of Natural Resources and Conservation “opened a multi-day hearing to decide whether to grant the company, founded by Flathead resident Lew Weaver, a water-use permit to tap the aquifer.” Representatives of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service were among those that

raised concerns.

Also reporting are [Montana Public Radio](#) (9/19, Kreimer) and [KTVO-TV Billings \(MT\)](#) Billings, MT (9/19, Miller).

California Condor Takes Flight In Wild After Near Extinction.

The [AP](#) (9/20, Chea) reports that “three decades after being pushed to the brink of extinction, the California condor is making a comeback in the wild, but constant vigilance is needed to ensure the endangered bird doesn’t reverse course.” Notably, plans also “underway to release some captive-bred condors in Redwood National Park in 2019 to establish a population near the California-Oregon border.”

The Oil-Drunk Trump Administration Needs To Leave Alaska Refuge Alone.

In an editorial, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/19) says that the Trump Administration needs to leave the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge alone and not allow seismic testing to assess the oil potential because it is a bad idea for both environmental policy and energy strategy. The editorial says, “The future of the global environment hinges on the decisions we make now about our energy sources, and taking even a baby step toward developing new sources of fossil fuels — especially in one of the harshest climate zones in the world — would be foolhardy and dangerous.”

[E&E Publishing](#) (9/19) also provides coverage of the move towards the Arctic Refuge.

Airbnb For Monarch Butterflies Can Prevent Demise.

In an op-ed for the [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (9/19, Festa), David Festa, senior vice president of ecosystems programs at Environmental Defense Fund, writes that “there is a new wildlife solution that taps into the sharing economy to create new habitat for butterflies.” Festa calls for investing “in farmers and ranchers who already manage much of the habitat appropriate for milkweed.” According to Festa, “farmers and ranchers from California to Texas to Missouri now have the opportunity to participate in an emerging program called the Monarch Butterfly Habitat Exchange, which rewards them for restoring and enhancing monarch habitat in field edges, buffer zones, marginal lands and rangelands – areas that would not decrease productivity.”

National Park Service

National Mall Faces Space Crunch For Global War On Terror Memorial.

The [Washington Times](#) (9/19, Richardson) reports that “more memorials are seeking space on and near the National Mall as their sponsors seek to ensure that honoring the past never gets old.” According to the article, “the latest project vying for turf in the country’s most exclusive real estate district is the Global War on Terror Memorial, which got off to a fast start last week with a \$1 million donation from NewDay USA toward a goal of raising \$40 million to \$50 million in seven years.” The article notes that “other high-visibility projects in the pipeline include those commemorating former Presidents John Adams and Dwight D. Eisenhower, the doughboys of World War I, the Peace Corps and those who fought in Operation Desert Storm against Iraq.”

Man Arrested For Using Penny To Deface Lincoln Memorial.

[Newsweek](#) (9/19, Perez) reports that “a man was arrested after he vandalized the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. with a penny on Monday afternoon, authorities said.” U.S. Parks Police “say they caught Nurtilek Bakirov, 21, as he tried to write an ‘M’ into two pillars on the famous shrine.” However, “closer inspection revealed the words ‘HYPT’ and ‘MEAK’ carved into the memorial to the 16th president, police said.”

Also reporting are the [New York Daily News](#) (9/19, Brennan) and [WTTG-TV Washington](#) Washington (9/19, McGrady).

D.C. Councilmember Says National Park Service Would Charge Him With Trespassing For Removing Confederate Statue.

[WAMU-FM](#) Washington (9/19, Lefrak) reports that on Tuesday, the D.C. Council members Jack Evans and Mary Cheh introduced a resolution to remove a monument to Confederate Brigadier General Albert Pike from Judiciary Square. However, the article notes that “the statue was erected by an act of Congressional approval, and transferred to the jurisdiction of the National Park Service in 1977.” Therefore, “for it to be removed, Congress must pass a bill authorizing the removal, and the Park Service must oversee the process.”

NAACP Pushes To Remove Battle Of Chickamauga Monument In Tennessee.

[Fox News](#) (9/19) reports that “the local chapter of the NAACP is pushing a petition, that’s already garnered more than 2,000 signatures, calling for the removal of a Confederate statute commemorating one” of the Civil War Battle of Chickamauga’s “main players – Confederate Lt. Gen. Alexander P. Stewart – from outside Tennessee’s Hamilton County Courthouse.” But “since the monument is part of the National Park Service, and therefore federally protected, it’s not going anywhere anytime soon.” Kim Coons, who works with the park, said, “The monuments will stay here. And the reason they exist is because both sides reunified here to place the markers to tell the stories of the people who fought here.”

Federal Grant To Send Baltimore Students On Field Trips To 3 Historical Sites.

The [Baltimore Patch](#) (9/19) reports that Rep. John Sarbanes on Tuesday announced that the National Park Foundation will “award \$142,820 to support field trips for Baltimore City fourth graders to visit Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, Gwynn Falls in Baltimore National Heritage Area and Hampton National Historic Site.” Funding comes from NPF’s Open Outdoors for Kids program. In addition to Baltimore, the program will “provide \$2 million in grant funding to 130 National Park Service sites around the country and help bring more than 200,000 students to national parks for outdoor educational field trips during the 2017-2018 school year.”

Docks, Marinas Get Repaired After Microburst On Lake Powell.

The [AP](#) (9/20) reports that “authorities say repairs are nearly finished to property in the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area that was damaged by last week’s microburst along the Arizona-Utah border.” According to the article, “a sudden, powerful downward gust of wind swamped or sank dozens of powerboats and jet skis last Thursday on Lake Powell and resulted in damages to the park’s docks and marinas.” Also, “at the Wahweap Marina, water, power and sewer weren’t available and the dock was damaged.” National Park Service officials “say most of the piers and docks have been repaired as of Tuesday and the Wahweap Marina should be reopened soon.”

Fly Fishing On A Day Of Healing For Veterans.

[WNEP-TV](#) Scranton, PA (9/19, Mataloni) reports that a group of veterans spent a “beautiful, late-summer day fly fishing on the Delaware River in the Poconos” as part of “Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing.” It was “the first time the National Park Service has teamed up with ‘Project Healing Waters.’” The NPS “hopes to host ‘Project Healing Waters’ during both the spring and fall seasons.”

49 Become U.S. Citizens At Yosemite National Park.

[KMPH-TV](#) Fresno, CA (9/19, Vang) reports that “the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and the National Park Service joined to present a naturalization ceremony Tuesday at Glacier Point Amphitheater in Yosemite National Park.” According to a USCIS spokesperson, the 49 new U.S. citizens came “from 15 countries that included United Kingdom, Australia, Bulgaria, Zambia, China, India and Mexico.”

New Muir Woods Reservation System Aims To Reduce Overcrowding, Traffic Congestion.

The [Napa Valley \(CA\) Register](#) (9/19) reports that the National Park Service has “selected a new parking and shuttle reservation system at the Muir Woods National Monument in Marin County.” Ace Parking Management Inc. will “manage on-site parking at the popular tourist destination.”

Office Of Insular Affairs

Trump Declares Emergency As Hurricane Maria Heads Toward Puerto Rico.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/19, story 2, 2:20, Muir) reported that Hurricane Maria is “already deadly and battering the Caribbean.” Maria made landfall in Dominica with 160 mph winds. Dominica Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit: “I believe we caught a very bad blow. There appears to be a lot of destruction.” The [New York Times](#) (9/19, Semple, Ramzy) reports that Skerrit said Dominica “sustained ‘mind boggling’ damage.” Skerrit wrote on Facebook, “So far we have lost all what money can buy and replace. ... My greatest fear for the morning is that we will wake to news of serious physical injury and possible deaths as a result of likely landslides triggered by persistent rains.” The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/19, story 3, 2:00, Mason) reported the Caribbean

island of Tortola is “bracing for the worst.”

The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/19, Correll) reports that President Trump has “issued an emergency declaration for the US Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, making the territories eligible for federal funding for disaster relief.” In a [tweet](#) Tuesday evening, Trump wrote, “Puerto Rico being hit hard by new monster Hurricane. ... Be careful, our hearts are with you – will be there to help!”

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/19, story 2, 2:20, Muir) said that as Puerto Rico braces for impact, more than three million US citizens are “at risk” there, with some “warned to evacuate or risk death.” [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/19, story 2, 2:30, Holt) reported that the San Juan airport is shutting down as Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rossello “warns of catastrophic impact.” Rossello said on [CNN’s Anderson Cooper 360](#) (9/19) that “conditions are deteriorating rapidly. We are expecting a very tough hurricane, the worst hurricane in modern history in Puerto Rico. So for the past couple of days, we’ve been organizing so that we can get people out of harms way.”

Rep. Jennifer Gonzalez-Colon said on [CNBC’s Closing Bell](#) (9/19) that Puerto Rico has “never been hit by a hurricane of this category before since 1928. At that time, there were more than 5,000 people who lost their lives in that kind of hurricane. So we’re very concerned. The Governor has taken measures. I’ll tell you that FEMA and all the Federal agencies in the island are doing a wonderful job moving people and actually we got more than 500 shelters this time and asking people to move and be safe.”

Meteorologist Eric Fisher said on the [CBS Evening News](#) (9/19, story 4, 0:35, Mason) that Maria “has a very tight core, meaning the winds, the most destructive ones are right around the eye, but that eye bearing down on St. Croix, as well as Puerto Rico, as we head into early on Wednesdays morning, just before daylight, crossing the island as a catastrophic hurricane.” The [Washington Post](#) (9/19, Samenow) says a warning statement from the National Weather Service “carried an apocalyptic tone,” warning people to expect “‘catastrophic damage’ from winds to 160 mph, including ‘structural damage to sturdy buildings, some with complete roof and wall failures.’” The statement “also predicts ‘devastating to catastrophic flooding’ from rainfall amounts of 12 to 18 inches, with isolated totals exceeding 25 inches.”

[NBC Nightly News](#) (9/19, story 3, 1:10, Holt) reported that Puerto Rico could see a storm surge of six to nine feet before Maria continues to Turks and Caicos on Friday. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/19, story 3, 0:55, Zee) reported that Maria will keep “well east of Florida and...away from the Carolinas in all of the computer modeling as we go into next week.”

US Geological Survey

Earthquake Outside Mexico City Kills At Least 226.

On Tuesday, less than two weeks after suffering a magnitude 8.1 earthquake, Mexico was again struck by a powerful quake. Reporting on the quake led all network news outlets. Coverage focused predominately on the rising death toll, devastation, and domestic rescue efforts.

In its lead story, [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/19, lead story, 3:05, Muir) reported the “massive” 7.1 earthquake struck less than 100 miles from Mexico City on Tuesday afternoon. Dozens of deaths have already been reported, and “authorities say this death toll will go much higher.” Meanwhile, rescuers are trying to reach people trapped in the rubble. In its lead story, the [CBS Evening News](#) (9/19, lead story, 2:00, Mason) reported dozens of children remain trapped in a collapsed school in Mexico City. Elsewhere, “The roofs of a shopping center caved in. The airport runway is cracked. A government building sits tilted on its side. Many, many people are injured, and even more still feeling panicked.” Leading [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/19, lead story, 2:40, Holt), correspondent Miguel Almaguer similarly reported the quake “toppled buildings in Mexico City,” and while “thousands” fled into the streets, “untold numbers of people are trapped or missing.” Mexico has declared a state of emergency as it braces for aftershocks.

At the end of its broadcast, the [CBS Evening News](#) (9/19, story 11, 0:40, Mason) updated the death toll to at least 100. On Tuesday night, the head of Mexico’s Civil Defense agency, Luis Felipe Puente, increased the confirmed death toll to 149, but the [AP](#) (9/19, Stevenson) in updated coverage said at least 226 people have been confirmed dead. The [New York Times](#) (9/19, Semple, Malkin) reports the death toll included “scores in the state of Morelos, close to the epicenter of the quake, and dozens here in the capital, Mexico City.” On Twitter, Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto announced he had immediately returned to Mexico City. Earlier on Tuesday, “Peña Nieto attended a memorial service for those killed in the 1985 earthquake.”

The [Washington Post](#) (9/19, Partlow) reports the US Ambassador to Mexico, Roberta Jacobson, said one US Embassy staffer broke an elbow in the earthquake, but that no other Embassy workers were harmed. While Mexico City has a large American expatriate community, she said there have been no reports of affected US citizens. The embassy building "did not appear to sustain structural damage, Jacobson added."

Top National News

Trump Slams "Rocket Man" At UN, Threatens To "Totally Destroy" North Korea.

Media coverage of President Trump's address Tuesday to the UN General Assembly is widespread, with most reports focusing on his comments about North Korea. Outlets overwhelmingly cast the President as toughening his stance on Pyongyang, threatening to "totally destroy" North Korea and repeating his "Rocket Man" nickname for leader Kim Jong-Un.

All three networks covered the President's speech, dedicating seven-and-a-half minutes of total airtime, but none of them led with it. Jonathan Karl said on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/19, story 4, 2:25, Muir) that while he "has spoken of fire and fury...today, President Trump went even further, raising the possibility of wiping North Korea off the map." Trump was shown saying: "The United States has great strength and patience, but if it is forced to depend itself or its allies, we will have no choice but to totally destroy North Korea." Trump then "directly referred to North Korean dictator...by his new nickname: 'Rocket Man.'" Trump: "Rocket Man is on a suicide mission for himself and for his regime."

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/19, story 4, 2:40, Holt), Hallie Jackson said the comment was "met with gasps inside the room." Jim Sciutto said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (9/19) that "a senior UN diplomat in the room" said that "when Trump uttered those words...the diplomats in the room were taken aback. It, in his words, 'felt like a wind had swept through the room,' an emotional response from those present unlike anything they had heard from an American President before." According to [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/19), "an official" says the comment was added to the President's speech Tuesday morning.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/19, story 5, 2:25, Mason) said that during "his debut," Trump "vowed to work with [world leaders] for peace, but threatened to wipe one nation off the face of the earth." Trump, [Bloomberg News](#) (9/19, Talev, Wadhams) says, "bluntly threatened North Korea with annihilation," and the [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/19, Wilkinson, Bierman) says he "delivered a forceful inaugural speech" that "ranged from warlike to flowery and that challenged some long-cherished tenets of US foreign policy." In particular, he "caused a stir when he mocked...Kim...as 'Rocket Man on a suicide mission' and threatened his 'depraved regime.'" [The Hill](#) (9/19, Fabian) similarly says that the President's comments "caused a stir among the crowd of leaders and diplomats at the UN and represented his starkest ultimatum yet against North Korea," while the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/19, Stokols, Fassihi) was more measured, saying that the speech drew a mixed reaction.

[USA Today](#) (9/19, Jackson) writes that "even as he addressed deadly serious issues that could involve American forces, the reality television star-turned-president deployed a colorful array of Trumpian phrases to make his points before the traditionally staid United Nations delegates." With regards to Kim, [Bloomberg News](#) (9/19, Talev, Wadhams) says Trump "at times cast aside conventions of political and diplomatic dialogue in favor of the aggressive dialect of social media," and [McClatchy](#) (9/19, Hadley) says he "used harsh and mocking language when addressing" the North Korean leader. John Roberts said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (9/19) that Trump "left no room for interpretation or ambiguity, demanding Kim Jong-un give up his nuclear program or else."

[Reuters](#) (9/19) says Trump "escalated his standoff with North Korea...threatening to 'totally destroy' the country of 26 million people and mocking its leader." His remarks, Reuters adds, "rattled world leaders." Using what the [AP](#) (9/19, Lemire, Superville) calls "dark language reminiscent of his 'American carnage' inaugural address," Trump delivered a "combative debut speech to the UN General Assembly, threatened to 'totally destroy' North Korea." The AP adds that while his "lashing was a vigorous restatement of what's been said by US leaders before," it was "likely to hit home harder for being intensely delivered in diplomatic prime time at the UN General Assembly."

The [New York Times](#) (9/19, Baker, Sengupta) says the "bellicose speech...drew a series of good-versus-evil lines that forecast confrontations to come," but the President "singled out North Korea for his harshest words, broadening his indictment of the Pyongyang government beyond

just its pursuit of nuclear weapons to its treatment of its own people and captured foreigners." And "without mentioning it by name," Trump also "chastised China for continuing to deal with its rogue neighbor," saying, "It is an outrage that some nations would not only trade with such a regime, but would arm, supply and financially support a country that imperils the world with nuclear conflict." The [New York Post](#) (9/19, Moore) reports that while Trump "thanked members of the UN Security Council, which has imposed several rounds of sanctions against North Korea," he also "chided those countries that still do business with Pyongyang."

The [Washington Post](#) (9/19, Nakamura, Gearan) reports that following the speech, White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders "sought to temper the idea that Trump's remarks about North Korea were a break from past US policy."

The [Washington Times](#) (9/19, Boyer) reports Sen. Dianne Feinstein criticized Trump for using his UN address "as a stage to threaten war," while Sen. David Perdue said he is "glad" that Trump and Ambassador Haley are getting more aggressive with the UN. Sen. Ben Cardin said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/19), "I don't think his remarks were well received by our allies." He added that the "international community should be there to help us" deal with the threat posed by the North, but "the President's comments put a wedge in our international coalition."

House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (9/19), "These aren't the words I would have used. But what I'll share with you here is that in point of fact our biggest challenge right now is applying full diplomatic and financial pressure on North Korea and getting compliance from these other countries to do it."

Rep. Andre Carson said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/19) that Trump was being his "provocative" self in his threats to North Korea. Carson added that "to President Trump's credit...you have to be firm with those who threaten to do us harm," but "having said that, in our firmness we should not ostracize those trying to keep the peace."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/19, story 7, 2:50, Mason) reported on an interview with former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who said "you can't deal with a rogue state like" North Korea "by yourself. You have to have great, tight relationships with all, or lots of other countries, particularly the surrounding countries. And, unfortunately, America is going in the other direction."

A [Washington Post](#) (9/19, Blake) analysis says Trump's "oddly chosen colloquialisms masked what was a pretty astounding escalation of his rhetoric when it comes to North Korea. Just to be clear: The president of the United States threatened to wipe a country of 25 million people off the map." James Rubin, however, writes in a [Politico Magazine](#) (9/19) analysis headlined "Trump's UN Speech Was Bad, But Let's Not Lose Our Heads" that despite "the screaming headlines about Trump's threat to destroy North Korea, that comment was merely a somewhat blunter statement of US declaratory policy going back decades."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/19, Scarry) reports that Trump "disturbed some in the press" after vowing to "destroy" North Korea. MSNBC host Lawrence O'Donnell [tweeted](#) that Trump "threatened to commit a war crime" by threatening North Korea, while a reporter for the Huffington Post "seemed to suggest Trump's harsh comments may justify the rogue state's actions," saying, "Gee, Kim Jon-un is so irrational for wanting nuclear weapons."

A [USA Today](#) (9/19) editorial calls the President's threat to "destroy" North Korea "deeply unsettling," and argues that though he "rightly called upon all nations to isolate Kim's murderous regime," he "undermined that goal with the kind of man-to-man tabloid bombast...that raises Kim's stature and makes him more, rather than less, likely to cling to the nuclear arsenal that he thinks will guarantee his survival."

David Ignatius writes in his [Washington Post](#) (9/19) column that the "most surprising thing" about Trump's address "was how conventional it was. He supported human rights and democracy; he opposed rogue regimes; he espoused a global community of strong, sovereign nations. Pretty shocking stuff." But "because he's Trump, the zingers got the headlines: He repeated his childish, snarky (but sort of funny) playground denunciation of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un," as well as his "bombastic threat" to "totally destroy" North Korea. Ignatius writes that what worries him about Trump's speech is "that it was so conventional. If Trump is going to deal successfully with North Korea, he'll truly have to think outside the box."

Poll: 82% Of Republicans Back Military Strike Against North Korea If Diplomacy Fails. The [Washington Times](#) (9/19, Harper) reports that a new Gallup poll shows the "American attitude toward North Korea appears to be evolving – and not necessarily in a docile direction." The poll shows that the number of Americans who would support a US military response is "significantly higher" these days. While the percentage of Democrats who favor military action "has hardly changed since 2003: 37 percent now vs. 41 percent then," the "major shift has been among

Republicans, whose support for military action is up 23 percentage points."

Bolton: Tillerson Pursuing "Wrong Policy" On North Korea. The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/19, Gehrke) reports former Ambassador John Bolton said Tuesday that Secretary of State Tillerson backs "the wrong policy" on North Korea. Hours after the President's UN address, Bolton "dismissed" Tillerson's assertion that the US has imposed sanctions on North Korea in order to induce a "constructive, productive dialogue" with the regime. Said Bolton, "We've had constructive dialogue with North Korea for 25 years; it doesn't work. That's the wrong policy."

Colin Powell: Ignore North Korea When It Launches Missiles. The [Detroit Free Press](#) (9/19, Jesse) reports that hours after President Trump threatened to "totally destroy" North Korea if it launched nuclear weapons, former Secretary of State Colin Powell "said a different tactic would be better." Speaking at the University of Michigan, Powell said, "Let's not go crazy every time they shoot missiles. Start ignoring them and maybe you can find a different way to solve this. It would probably drive them crazy if we ignored one of their launches and after the media interest went away, it would die down."

Trump At UN: Iran Nuclear Deal An "Embarrassment."

President Trump's criticism of the Iran nuclear deal during Tuesday's address to the UN General Assembly also receives significant media attention, including mentions on all three networks last night. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/19, story 4, 2:25, Muir) reported Iran's delegation listened as Trump accused the country "of funding terrorism and lashed out at the nuclear agreement negotiated with President Obama and America's European allies." Trump: "The Iran deal was one of the worst and most one-sided transactions the United States has ever entered into. Frankly, that deal is an embarrassment to the United States." Trump, who ABC noted didn't say if the US would withdraw from the agreement, "cast this moment as a turning point for the UN." Trump: "It is entirely up to us, whether we lift the world to new heights or let it fall into a valley of disrepair. If the righteous many do not confront the wicked few, then evil will triumph." The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/19, story 5, 2:25, Mason), however, said Trump "implied he might pull out" of the deal.

[The Hill](#) (9/19, Chalfant) reports Trump insisted that "it is time for the entire world to join us in demanding that Iran end its pursuit of death and destruction."

[Fox News' Special Report](#) (9/19) reported Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu "loved" Trump's comments on Iran. Fox showed Netanyahu saying of Trump's address: "I have listened to countless speeches in this hall. I can say this: none were bolder, none were more courageous and forthright than the one delivered by President Trump today. President Trump rightly called the nuclear deal with Iran, he called it an embarrassment. I couldn't agree more." [Breitbart](#) (9/19, Danan) also reports Netanyahu's reaction.

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/19, story 4, 2:40, Holt), Hallie Jackson reported that Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, by contrast, accused Trump "of ignorant hate speech." [Fox News' Special Report](#) (9/19) reported Zarif [tweeted](#), "Trump's ignorant hate speech belongs in medieval times, not the 21st century. UN -unworthy of a reply."

Iran, [Reuters](#) (9/19) reports, denounced Trump's remarks as "shameless and ignorant" and "said his speech on Tuesday showed his lack of knowledge about Tehran's fight against terrorism." State media quoted Zarif as saying, "Trump's shameless and ignorant remarks, in which he ignored Iran's fight against terrorism, displays his lack of knowledge and unawareness."

[CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/19) reported Trump's assertion that the Iran nuclear deal is "one of the worst and one-sided transactions the United States has ever entered into" was also "a cause of concern" for French President Emmanuel Macron, who said, "If we simply throw out this agreement, there is nothing to replace it. And if you have nothing, then it's the same situation as North Korea, and I don't want to find myself in a no man's land."

[Politico](#) (9/19, Toosi) reports that "in public, in private, and with few exceptions," world leaders gathered at the UN this week are urging Trump "not to follow through on his threat to derail the Iran nuclear deal. But so far, Trump shows no sign of listening to them." The issue, Politico says, will "take center stage on Wednesday," when Secretary of State Tillerson joins a multinational meeting on the nuclear deal that will also be attended by Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif, marking "the first time the two men will meet face-to-face."

[CNN](#) (9/19, Watkins) reports on its website that House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce said Tuesday that the US "should focus on enforcing the nuclear agreement with Iran instead of renegotiating it." Speaking to CNN's Jake Tapper, Royce said, "I think we should enforce the hell out of the agreement and thereby force compliance on the part of Iran."

Rep. Andre Carson said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/19) that withdrawing from the deal

would be a "tremendous mistake" that "brings us closer to war." Carson commended the Obama Administration for securing the pact, and said he thinks the "deal is working" and "is worth it." Sen. Ben Cardin said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/19) said "our concern" is that Trump will "rip up" the nuclear agreement despite Iran not being in violation of the deal. He said if Trump did tear up the deal, "we would be the ones walking away," and "our allies would be scratching their heads."

Tillerson: Deal's Sunset Provisions "Not A Sensible Way Forward." [Reuters](#) (9/20, Mohammed, Irish) reports Secretary of State Tillerson said Tuesday that the nuclear agreement's "sunset" clauses, under which some restrictions against Iran's nuclear program are slated to expire in 2025, "simply is not a sensible way forward." Said Tillerson, "It's just simply...kicking the can down the road again for someone in the future to have to deal with."

Rouhani: "No One Will Trust America Again" If It Leaves Nuclear Deal. "Minutes before" Trump "ripped Iran," Lester Holt of [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/19, story 5, 3:00) sat down with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, who warned that if the US pulls out of the nuclear deal, "no one will trust America again. ... Because after such a possible scenario, which country would be willing to sit across the table from the United States of America and talk about international issues?" When asked if he'd ever sit down with President Trump, Rouhani replied, "When the United States government in very transparently speaks of an aim of regime change in Iran, talking in bilateral fashion becomes very meaningless. In the current atmosphere, I do not see the current requirements for such a meeting." Rouhani also dismissed the Trump Administration's attempts to put Iran in the same basket as North Korea, saying, "North Korea has said in very straightforward manner that it seeks nuclear weapons. ... Iran is completely the opposite point."

Families Of Americans Imprisoned In Iran Welcome Trump's Call For Their Release. The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (9/19, Crabtree) reports that "families and advocates for Americans imprisoned in Iran applauded President Trump for demanding the release of all US prisoners and others unjustly detained in Tehran" during his speech Tuesday. Family members of Siamak and Baquer Namazi, a father and son who are being held in Iran, "also urged Trump to take urgent action to try to secure their release. "

Former Iranian Political Prisoner Urges Regime To Acknowledge 1988 Executions. Former Iranian political prisoner Shabnam Madadzadeh writes in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/19) that in 1988, an estimated 30,000 Iranians – mostly members of the opposition group Mujahedin-e Khalq (MEK) – were executed. Madadzadeh calls on Iran's leaders to acknowledge the killings and hold the mullahs responsible for them accountable. The first step, he says, is the establishment of an independent international investigation.

Trump Calls Out Venezuela, Cuba In UN Speech.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/19, story 5, 2:25, Mason) reported in his address to the UN General Assembly on Tuesday, President Trump "called Cuba and Venezuela failed socialist states. He said Venezuela has descended into chaos after illegitimate elections." Trump: "We are prepared to take further action if the government of Venezuela persists on its path to impose authoritarian rule on the Venezuelan people." [McClatchy](#) (9/19, Ordoñez) reports that during his address, Trump threatened "further action" against Venezuela and "promised not to lift sanctions against Cuba until the government in Havana makes fundamental reforms." In a speech that McClatchy says "moved quickly from criticism of America's adversaries to dire warnings of nuclear war," Trump "singl[ed] out Venezuela and Cuba for, he said, delivering only 'anguish and failure' to its people." The President also "called on world leaders to do more to help the people of Venezuela and not look the other way as their government destroys democratic institutions."

[Fox News' Special Report](#) (9/19) reported Venezuela had a "sharp reaction" to Trump's speech, as the regime "didn't like being called out for imposing a brutal dictatorship." [Bloomberg News](#) (9/19, Bristow) reports Venezuela said in a statement that it is prepared to defend itself against aggression from US and its allies. Venezuela will "keep defeating in the political and diplomatic spheres" what "it described as an onslaught of nefarious threats against its sovereignty."

Newsweek: Trump's Condemnation Of Socialism Met With "Laughter," "Weak Applause." In what [Newsweek](#) (9/19, Haltiwanger) calls "perhaps the most awkward moment of Trump's speech," when Trump "criticized socialism during his speech...he seemed to expect roaring approval from the audience. Instead, world leaders responded with laughter and weak applause." Conservative commentator Bill O'Reilly "perhaps described it best," saying, "Most fascinating part of Trump [United Nations] speech: After lambasting socialism, he paused, perhaps waiting for applause. None came. Stony silence."

In UN Speech, Trump Vows To Always Put America First.

Also garnering media attention is the President's vow to put America first during his UN remarks. The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/19, story 5, 2:25, Mason), for example, reported that in his first address to the UN General Assembly, President Trump "told the leaders of the world he will always put America first and said they should put their countries first, too." [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/19) said Trump's "address started much like a campaign speech, minus the applause from his conservative base, as the President talked about making America first." While Trump "tried to win over a world body he has ridiculed as ineffective," he also "made it clear he's ready to go it alone on a variety of fronts."

[Fox News' Special Report](#) (9/19) reported Trump "says it's not his intent to nation build or impose democracy through military...action, but rather to create global stability by partnering with nations that put the well-being of their citizens first." Trump was shown saying that as President, "I will always put America first. Just like you, as the leaders of your countries, will always and should always put your countries first."

The President, says the [New York Times](#) (9/19, Baker, Sengupta), "defended his America First policy and argued that nationalism can be reconciled with common causes," repeatedly using the word "sovereignty" to "describe his approach in a setting where the term traditionally has been brandished by nations like Russia and China to deflect criticism of their actions."

On its front page, the [Washington Post](#) (9/19, A1, Jaffe, DeYoung) says Trump "hammered the principle of national sovereignty...but then outlined an agenda that would keep the United States deeply engaged in the world." In a [New York Times](#) (9/19) analysis, Mark Landler similarly writes that Trump "offered a strikingly selective definition of the concept, threatening to act aggressively against nations like North Korea, Iran and Venezuela, whose policies he opposes, yet saying almost nothing about Russia, which seized territory from its neighbor, Ukraine, and meddled in the American presidential election."

[USA Today](#) (9/19, Korte) says Tuesday's address "was perhaps the most aggressive speech ever delivered by a US president at the UN," but "amid the provocative language, the widely anticipated address also provided a clear articulation of Trump's emerging worldview. He envisions an international order in which each nation pursues its own self interests — and cooperates only when those interests converge."

[Politico](#) (9/19, Toosi, McCaskill) reports Trump "urged nations to band together to fight 'evil' — even as he extolled the virtue of respecting national sovereignty and insisted that America isn't looking to impose its 'way of life' on others." The "at-times contradictory remarks," Politico adds, were "filled with soaring rhetoric that touched on everything from 'God' to 'chaos,' and the dark tones were reminiscent of Trump's inaugural address, in which he promised to bring an end to 'American carnage.'"

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/19) editorializes that while Trump is right to challenge the UN and promote "national sovereignty," there is no substitute for US leadership on the global stage. Max Boot writes for [USA Today](#) (9/19) that "the Trump Doctrine is selfishness squared. Just as Trump has never done anything in his life that did not benefit him personally, so he cannot imagine any nation acting for the general good. In his private life, it's me first. In his foreign policy, it's America First."

[Wall Street Journal](#) (9/19) columnist Gerald F. Seib writes that Trump offered world leaders a concise summary of his approach to world affairs, declaring: "We are guided by outcomes, not ideology."

[Reuters](#) (9/19, Mason, Holland) writes that "among the many signals" that Trump sent in his speech, "one was especially clear: former chief strategist Steve Bannon's White House departure has not muted the president's 'America First' foreign policy instincts."

Reaction to the President's address in the media and lawmakers was generally split along party lines. Of note, however, the [New York Times](#) (9/19) — which is typically very critical of the President — writes on its editorial page that the UN "isn't the venue one would expect for threatening war. Yet that's what President Trump did in his first address to the General Assembly." But overall, the Times says Trump's "largely benign comments about the United Nations were encouraging, considering he once condemned it as useless and having no place in his 'America First' vision."

A [Washington Post](#) (9/19) editorial says that "for those who have been alarmed by President Trump's retreat from traditional American values, there were reassuring moments" Tuesday. Trump, it says, "rightly and scathingly attacked regimes that deprive their own people of liberty, such as those in North Korea and Venezuela." And "less reassuring" were Trump's "schoolboy taunts" of "Rocket Man." And then, "somewhere in between, there was Mr. Trump's repeated

emphasis on sovereignty."

[Fox News' Special Report](#) (9/19) reported that Rep. Mark Takano called Trump's speech "shockingly reckless." Rep. Barbara Lee tweeted, "Dangerous rhetoric & abdication of values" from President Trump. By contrast, Mitt Romney said Trump "gave a strong and needed challenge to UN members to live up to its charter and to confront global challenges." New Gingrich said Trump's speech "is historic and sets a new standard. Sovereignty and national interest are reasserted as principles."

Rep. Andre Carson noted on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/19) that Trump in his speech "praised" the State Department. Carson found that "interesting, because his proposal in his budget makes the deepest cuts in State Department history."

Gloria Borger said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/19), "This was a speech that you can say is full of bombast, which it was, but is the first time we heard laid out completely, clearly Donald Trump's vision for the world. He took on North Korea directly. He took on Iran directly. He took on Venezuela. He took on Syria directly And he also, in addition to taking on those bad actors, he made the case that we foot a lot of the bill in the United Nations and that has to change. There are a lot of people in the audience that would be upset about it. People who will not be upset about it are Donald Trump's base and lots of Republicans." A [McClatchy](#) (9/19, Kumar) analysis says Trump "delivered the message of the voters who elected him."

Mara Liasson of NPR said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (9/19), "This is what the White House wanted. I thought the speech had something for everyone. For people who wanted some tough, nationalist populist rhetoric, it was in there. I thought it was a step back from the UN bashing that Trump had done during the campaign."

Catherine Lucey of the AP said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (9/19) that Trump "really put the world on notice today. The President came in with a clear message he wanted to deliver. If you've been watching his speeches throughout the year and the campaign, it really was a continuation of a vision we've seen from him before. This was a dark interpretation of the state of affairs in the world, but it revealed his frustration and the way he thinks, and it's the way he thinks he needs to deliver the message. This is the kind of rhetoric he's comfortable with. This is the way he wants to communicate. He wanted to make a stand today."

In his opening monologue on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (9/19), Sean Hannity said of Trump's address, "This is what leading on the world stage actually looks like. President Trump refused to appease and capitulate to countries like Iran and the hate America crowd in North Korea, countries that want to see Israel wiped off the map." Hannity added that Trump "is receiving very high praise for his very bold and direct address."

White House Joins Graham-Cassidy Push, But Bill's Prospects Remain Uncertain.

On Tuesday, the White House threw itself into the effort to pass the Graham-Cassidy bill to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, but reports portray the bill's prospects as uncertain despite the optimism of Sen. Lindsay Graham – with the vote of Graham's close friend Sen. John McCain again possibly proving decisive.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/19, story 6, 2:00, Muir) reported on the "last-ditch effort" in the Senate "to kill Obamacare, but time is running out. They have to get it done by next week." ABC's Mary Bruce: "Tonight, the mad dash to deliver. Mr. Vice President, are you finally going to get health reform done?" Vice President Pence: "We're making progress." Bruce: "Just six working days left for Republicans to overhaul Obamacare with a simple majority vote. The White House tonight is fully on board; the President's working the phones." Pence: "All-in." Bruce: "The new GOP plan ends Obamacare subsidies and the Medicaid expansion. Instead, states will get some money to use as they see fit." Graham: "Here's the choice for America: socialism or federalism when it comes to your healthcare."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/19, Mascaro) reports that the President "is making a big push to revive the Republican healthcare overhaul days before a Senate deadline." Pence, who was in New York with the President for the General Assembly meeting, "returned to the Capitol to tell Republican senators: 'Now is the time. We have 12 days.'" [Breitbart](#) (9/19, Moons) reports, "Pence said that President Trump is 'a great believer in federalism.' The Vice President indicated that this fact moved the Trump Administration to spend the past six weeks 'in discussions about the way forward, about [Graham's and Sen. Bill Cassidy's] development of the bill' and have 'provided administration resources to support their analysis.'"

[The Hill](#) (9/19, Carney) reports that Graham told reporters on Tuesday, "I really believe we're going to get 50 Republican votes. I've never felt better about where we're at." Guy Benson of [Townhall](#) (9/19) writes that Graham told reporters that House Speaker Ryan "pledged to him

that if the Senate passes the legislation, the House will follow suit – but that the House will not take up a bill that merely props up Obamacare with more bailout-style money, which is the ‘compromise’ sought by Democrats.” [Townhall](#) (9/19, O’Brien) additionally reports that Graham has been working with Stephen Bannon, who he dubbed “Darth Vader,” as well as “figures like Alan Greenspan [and] Jeb Bush,” to help win support. [Reuters](#) (9/19, Cornwell) reports that Senate Majority Leader McConnell said on the floor that “lawmakers should act because ‘our opportunity to do so may well pass us by if we don’t act soon.’”

The deciding vote could be McCain’s, and the [New York Times](#) (9/19, Stolberg) writes that the bill is testing the very close bond between McCain and his close friend Graham – “who is so closely identified with Mr. McCain that when he arrived in the Senate after serving in the House, he was called ‘McCain’s mini-me.’” The [Washington Times](#) (9/19, Howell) reports that McCain “refused to tip his hand Tuesday.” He told reporters, “I have nothing to say. I have nothing to say.”

Margot Sanger-Katz writes in the [New York Times](#) (9/19) “The Upshot” that “the bill faces substantial challenges.” Sen. Rand Paul “is a hard no, which makes the math difficult,” the bill contains “a huge redistribution of money between states in the bill’s formula” that would negatively impact “states with must-get senators,” and “the timing is tight, and the bill still has a long way to go.” However, ACA repeal “is a core promise for Republicans,” and the GOP is motivated to get it done.

Sen. Ben Cardin said on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (9/19), “We’ve been working the last two weeks, Democrats and Republicans, in order to improve the Affordable Care Act. That’s what the American people want us to do. ... But what the Cassidy bill would do is significantly reduce coverage in this country. Tens of millions of people lose coverage. And more tragically, the progress we’ve made against abuse of practices with insurance companies...is at great risk with the Cassidy bill. It’s moving again in the wrong direction.”

In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (9/19) calls the bill “about as execrable as the others that GOP lawmakers previously failed to approve,” and the process “as sloppy and partisan as the one to which” McCain and other senators “objected earlier in the summer. The outcome would be no less destructive.”

Timothy Jost of Washington and Lee University Law School writes in the [Washington Post](#) (9/19) that Graham-Cassidy would “hand the states block grants and abandon to them millions of Americans whom the ACA now helps. ... It would effectively strangle the efforts of states – predominantly Democratic – that have been most successful in extending coverage under the ACA’s Medicaid expansion, tax credits and cost-sharing reductions. Conversely, it would lavish funding on states – predominantly Republican – that have resisted the coverage expansion opportunities the ACA offered.”

CNN Analysis: With “Private Outreach,” Trump Trying To Smooth Relations With Senate Republicans. On its website, [CNN](#) (9/19, Raju) reported that earlier this summer, Trump “had a contentious phone call with” Sen. Lisa Murkowski “and also berated her on Twitter, accusing her of letting the country down for voting against GOP plans to gut Obamacare. But behind the scenes, Trump has since tried to make nice, inviting her to a private lunch earlier this month – something that seems to have defused tensions, at least for now.” CNN added, “The private outreach is part of a more concerted White House effort to repair relations Trump damaged with his own party over a tumultuous August, following the failure of the GOP effort to repeal Obamacare and a slew of White House controversies.” The effort “comes at a critical time: The White House is desperately trying to revive its health care push before a September 30 deadline – and needs senators like Murkowski to salvage the President’s agenda.”

Bipartisan Group Of Governors Opposes Graham-Cassidy. The [New York Times](#) (9/19, A1, Pear, Kaplan) reports that a bipartisan group of governors “including five Republicans and a pivotal Alaskan independent urged the Senate on Tuesday to reject a last-ditch push to dismantle the Affordable Care Act.” Govs. Charles Baker of Massachusetts, Steve Bullock of Montana, John Bel Edwards of Louisiana, John Hickenlooper of Colorado, John Kasich of Ohio, Terry McAuliffe of Virginia, Brian Sandoval of Nevada, Phil Scott of Vermont, Bill Walker of Alaska, and Tom Wolf of Pennsylvania signed [a letter](#) opposing Graham-Cassidy, while Govs. Larry Hogan of Maryland and Chris Sununu of New Hampshire “expressed similar concerns in separate statements.”

The [Washington Post](#) (9/19, A1, Sullivan, Snell, Eilperin) says that Walker “holds sway” over Sen. Lisa Murkowski, “a potentially decisive vote,” while Sandoval “is now at odds” with Sen. Dean Heller, “who is a co-sponsor of the bill.” The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/19, King) reports that “a group of 15 Republican governors” announced their support for the bill in a Tuesday letter.

Americans For Limited Government Backs Bill. [Breitbart](#) (9/19, Moran) reports that

Americans for Limited Government President Rick Manning endorsed the bill on Tuesday, saying, "We are encouraged that the Senate is close to passage on the Cassidy-Graham bill, which is the last best chance for Republicans to keep their basic promise to repeal and replace Obamacare."

Kimmel: Cassidy "Just Lied Right To My Face." On [ABC's Jimmy Kimmel Live](#) (9/19), host Jimmy Kimmel criticized Cassidy for saying on his show earlier this year that he would enact "the Jimmy Kimmel test" to protect families from losing health coverage. Kimmel said, "He got a lot of credit and attention for coming off like a rare, reasonable voice in the Republican Party when it came to healthcare. ... [Cassidy] just lied right to my face." Kimmel's segment on the bill ran seven minutes.

Senate Republicans Tentatively Agree On \$1.5 Trillion Tax Cut Plan.

The [AP](#) (9/19, Taylor) cites "congressional officials" who said that "top Republicans" on the Senate Budget Committee "have reached a tentative agreement on a tax plan that would add about \$1.5 trillion to the government's \$20 trillion debt over 10 years." Panel member, Sen. Bob Corker, "said on Tuesday that Republicans have 'potentially gotten to a very good place' on agreeing to how much the upcoming tax measure might cost, once the Senate's tax writers have blended together rate cuts, additional revenue raised through curbing tax breaks, and the beneficial effects of what he called 'pro-growth tax reform.'" While Corker "didn't offer a number...officials familiar with the Senate Budget panel's internal discussions said the allowance for the tax measure would amount to \$1.5 trillion."

Ylan Mui said on [CNBC's Closing Bell](#) (9/19) that committee Republicans "are looking at a package of between \$1 trillion to \$2 trillion in tax cuts." [Politico](#) (9/19, Ferris, Scholtes) reports that Corker and Sen. Pat Toomey have "reached a compromise on the scope of tax breaks." Corker "has not yet said if he's agreed to the \$1.5 trillion in tax breaks over a decade that GOP senators reportedly have been considering," but he "acknowledged to reporters asking about the \$1.5 trillion figure: 'I think you guys already know what the number is. I'm not going to say it.'" The [New York Times](#) (9/19, Rappeport, Kaplan) reports that while Republicans "say a tax cut of this magnitude will stimulate economic growth enough to offset any deficit impact," critics "say a deficit-financed tax cut is at odds with longstanding Republican calls for fiscal discipline, including that tax cuts not add to the ballooning federal deficit." A short story in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/19, Hughes, Rubin) also reports on the tentative agreement.

Hatch: Tax Reform Should Include Dividend Deduction. [Reuters](#) (9/19) reports that Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch said Tuesday that allowing US companies "to deduct dividend payments to shareholders from federal income tax could overcome problems facing Republican efforts to overhaul the US tax code." Speaking at the opening of a tax reform hearing, Hatch "said he sees the proposal known as 'corporate integration' as a way to end the perceived double taxation of US companies through tax legislation."

Jordan, Meadows: Tax Plan Must Help Families, Grow The Economy. In an op-ed for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/19), Reps. Jim Jordan and Mark Meadows, the former and current chairmen of the House Freedom Caucus, that the Freedom Caucus has been told not to offer tax reform legislation and to wait for leadership's bill, which they will not be able to see until after they vote for the 2018 budget. Jordan and Meadows argue that the Freedom Caucus will pass the budget if they are sure the tax plan will reduce taxes for families and grow the economy.

Report: Cutting Wasteful Spending Would Balance Budget In Three Years.

According to a report from Citizens Against Government Waste titled "Prime Cuts 2017," Congress "could balance the budget in three years" if it would "cut unnecessary and wasteful spending in the federal government," the [Washington Free Beacon](#) (9/19, Meyer) reports. The report "outlines 607 recommendations to cut inefficient government spending that would not only balance the budget within three years but also save taxpayers \$336.2 billion in the first year and \$2.3 trillion over five years."

Pruitt Questions Whether Climate Change Is An "Existential Threat."

EPA Administrator Pruitt said on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (9/19), "With this climate change, we know certain things. We know the climate is always changing. We know that humans contribute to it in some way. To what degree to measure that with precision is very difficult. But what we don't know is we are in a situation where it's an existential threat. Is it unsustainable with respect to what we see presently. Let's have a debate about that, bring scientists in, red team scientists, blue team scientists and have a discussion about the importance of this issue so the American people deserve that type of objective, transparent discussion."

Brown: Trump's Claims About Paris Agreement Are "Fake." California Gov. Jerry Brown was asked on [CNN's The Lead](#) (9/19) about President Trump's claim that China got a better deal than the US in the Paris agreement. Brown said, "China is doing more than the US right now. They are closing down coal plants. They are massively investing in solar and wind. They are mastering battery technology, which will help America. So this point that America got a bad deal is fake. It's more fake than any fake news assertion by President Trump."

Federal Report On Climate To Be Released In November.

[E&E Publishing](#) (9/19) reports a study that warns "of the dire consequences of climate change that some feared would be suppressed under the Trump administration is tentatively set to be publicly released Nov. 3." The report, which is part of the National Climate Assessment, "spans more than 600 pages and has received input from 13 federal agencies." Texas Tech University climate scientist Katharine Hayhoe said, "While the full report is 600 pages long, it can be summarized in one sentence: It's real, it's us, it's serious, and the window of time to prevent dangerous impacts is closing fast." E&E adds that "a draft of the report drew national attention in recent months after The New York Times highlighted the study's findings and fears the Trump administration would hide the results."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"Warmongers And Peacemakers At The UN." The [New York Times](#) (9/19) writes on its editorial page that the UN "isn't the venue one would expect for threatening war. Yet that's what President Trump did in his first address to the General Assembly." But overall, the Times says Trump's "largely benign comments about the United Nations were encouraging, considering he once condemned it as useless and having no place in his 'America First' vision."

"Even College Doesn't Bridge The Racial Income Gap." A [New York Times](#) (9/20, Board) editorial examines how "racial pay gaps have expanded the most for college graduates, which makes it seem clear that discrimination is a leading cause." The Times adds, "The racial pay gap is narrower among women, but the gender pay gap in average hourly earnings is large," in part because "black women at all education levels are likelier to be their family's sole or primary provider, and thus more attached to the work force." The Times questions why "economic disparities persist even among college-educated workers," and cautions, "Racism and sexism are entrenched, and leaders need to acknowledge that and address the problem head-on."

Washington Post.

"Another Execrable Healthcare Bill Proves Bad Ideas Never Die." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (9/19) calls the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill "about as execrable as the others that GOP lawmakers previously failed to approve," and the process "as sloppy and partisan as the one to which" McCain and other senators "objected earlier in the summer. The outcome would be no less destructive."

"Trump Undermines His Own Advocacy For Human Dignity." A [Washington Post](#) (9/19) editorial says that "for those who have been alarmed by President Trump's retreat from traditional American values, there were reassuring moments" during his address to the UN General Assembly Tuesday. Trump, it says, "rightly and scathingly attacked regimes that deprive their own people of liberty, such as those in North Korea and Venezuela." And "less reassuring" were Trump's "schoolboy taunts" of "Rocket Man." And then, "somewhere in between, there was Mr. Trump's repeated emphasis on sovereignty."

"Who Pays For The White House To Lawyer Up?" The [Washington Post](#) (9/19) editorializes that as special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation "apparently gathers steam, so does a debate over an Office of Government Ethics rule prohibiting anonymous donations to legal defense funds of government employees. While no such defense fund has yet been set up" for Trump's aides, "its creation would help staffers shoulder the costs of the high-quality legal representation needed to weather questioning. ... And the recent confusion over OGE rules shows that it's time for the office to make clear its position on requiring donor disclosures."

Wall Street Journal.

"Trump Shock At Turtle Bay." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/19) editorializes that while President Trump is right to challenge the UN and promote "national sovereignty," there is no substitute for

US leadership on the global stage.

“James Madison Weeps.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/19) writes that a new Brookings Institution survey of more than 1,500 undergraduates found that most did not know hate speech was constitutionally protected, half agreed with shouting down speakers with whom they disagreed, and a fifth believed in the use of violence against speakers. The Journal concludes that many college students are clueless about free speech.

“All Mr. Comey’s Wiretaps.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/19) says in an editorial that a Paul Manafort wiretap would show that there was indeed federal wiretapping of Trump Tower, where Manafort has owned a condo since 2006, during the campaign.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Trump Issues Dire Warning To North Korea In Address To UN](#)
[Heavy Debt Crushed Owners Of Toys ‘R’ Us](#)
[CEO Catches Stranger After Hours, Prompting Espionage Charges](#)
[How Antifa Violence Has Split The Left](#)

New York Times:

[With Combative Style And Epithets, Trump Takes America First To The UN](#)
[Trump Offers A Selective View Of Sovereignty In UN Speech](#)
[Powerful Earthquake Strikes Mexico, Killing Over 100](#)
[Senate Republicans Embrace Plan For \\$1.5 Trillion Tax Cut](#)
[Republican Leaders Defy Bipartisan Opposition To Health Law Repeal](#)
[Aung San Suu Kyi, A Much-Changed Icon, Evades Rohingya Accusations](#)
[A ‘Quest For Justice’ For A Murdered Civil Rights Pioneer, 52 Years Later](#)

Washington Post:

[GOP Health Bill Hits Hurdle In Resistance From Governors](#)
[Trump Makes Defiant UN Debut](#)
[Robust Emphasis On Sovereignty Echoes President’s Domestic Agenda](#)
[Puerto Rico Prepares For Direct Hit By Maria](#)
[Ugly Past, Unattractive Present For Biggest Confederate Monument](#)
[Scores Dead After Powerful Quake Jolts Mexico](#)

Financial Times:

[Trump Threatens To ‘Totally Destroy’ North Korea](#)
[Theresa May Prepares €20bn EU Budget Offer](#)
[Russian-Built Nuclear Plant Revives Chernobyl Fears](#)
[Aung San Suu Kyi Defends Handling Of Rohingya Crisis](#)

Washington Times:

[Trump Defines ‘America First’ To Wary World Leaders At U.N., Warns North Korea And Iran](#)
[Senate Republicans Close To Pushing Through Obamacare Repeal](#)
[National Mall Faces Space Crunch For Global War On Terror Memorial](#)
[In U.N. Address, Trump Replaces Obama’s Soft Talk With Big Stick](#)
[At Least 149 Dead In Mexico After Magnitude 7.1 Earthquake](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night’s Network News:

ABC: Mexico City Earthquake; Hurricanes-Caribbean; Hurricane Tracking; Trump-UN Address; Russia Meddling Investigation-Manafort; Congress-Healthcare Reform; Louisiana-Racial Murders; Wheaton College-Football Team Hazing; Florida-Hospital Outrage; Russia Military Training Accident; Toys R Us-Bankruptcy; Disabled Pilot.

CBS: Mexico City Earthquake; Mexico City Earthquake-Expert Comment; Hurricanes-Caribbean; Hurricane Tracking; Trump-UN Address; Russia Meddling Investigation-Manafort; Michael Bloomberg Interview; Guns In Classrooms; Louisiana-Racial Murders; Toys R Us-Bankruptcy; Mexico City Earthquake-Situation Update.

NBC: Mexico City Earthquake; Hurricanes-Caribbean; Hurricane Tracking; Trump-UN Address; Iranian President Interview; Red Cross Controversy; Toys R Us-Bankruptcy; Florida Sinkhole;

Dodge Trucks Recall; Wrong Baby Registry; Children Night Lights.

Network TV At A Glance:

Mexico City Earthquake – 10 minutes, 15 seconds

Hurricanes – 9 minutes, 30 seconds

Trump-UN Address – 7 minutes, 30 seconds

Russia Meddling Investigation-Manafort – 4 minutes, 35 seconds

Toys R Us-Bankruptcy – 2 minutes, 20 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Mexico City Earthquake; Hurricanes; Louisiana-Racial Murders; Congress-Healthcare Reform.

CBS: Mexico City Earthquake; Hurricanes; Trump-UN Address; Russia Meddling Investigation-Manafort; Sanctuary Cities; Wall Street News.

FOX: Mexico City Earthquake; Hurricanes; Trump-UN Address.

NPR: Hurricanes; Mexico City Earthquake; Trump-UN Address; Congress-Healthcare Reform.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Participates in an expanded meeting with the King of Jordan; participates in an expanded meeting with the President of the Palestinian Authority; attends a working lunch with African leaders; participates in an expanded meeting with the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom; participates in an expanded meeting with the President of Egypt.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Delivers remarks at a UN Security Council high-level debate on reform of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations; joins the President for an expanded meeting with the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom; joins the President for an expanded meeting with the President of Egypt.

US Senate: 9:00 AM Senate Aging Committee hearing on disaster preparedness and response – Hearing on 'Disaster Preparedness and Response: The Special Needs of Older Americans', with testimony from former New Orleans Health Commissioner Karen DeSalvo; University of South Florida School of Aging Studies Professor / Florida Policy Exchange Center on Aging Director Dr Kathryn Hyer; Portlight Inclusive Disaster Strategies CEO/President Paul Timmons Jr.; and Wilkes-Barre, PA, Fire Chief/Emergency Management Coordinator Jay Delaney Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 562, Washington, DC <http://aging.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Allison Eid to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit; Annemarie Carney Axon to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama; Michael Lawrence Brown and William Ray II to be U.S. District Judges for the Northern District of Georgia; and Thomas Alvin Farr to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 226, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Environment and Public Works Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Michael Dourson, Matthew Leopold, David Ross, and William Wehrum to be Environmental Protection Agency Assistant Administrators; and Jeffery Baran to be a Nuclear Regulatory Commission member Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 406, Washington, DC <http://epw.senate.gov/public/>

10:30 AM Republican Sen. James Lankford meets with Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney Location: Washington, DC <http://www.lankford.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenatorLankford>

1:00 PM Dem Sen. Jack Reed and military consumer advocates hold briefing on the CFPB arbitration rule – Democratic Sen. Jack Reed and military consumer advocates hold briefing on 'how the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's arbitration rule directly benefits the military community and helps protect service members from financial frauds and abuses', and 'how the CFPB rule directly impacts Equifax and Wells Fargo customers'. Other participants include Commissioned Officers Association Deputy Executive Director John McElligot, Public Justice Executive Director Paul Bland, and Wells Fargo fake account victim Tracey Kilgore Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 538, Washington, DC <http://reed.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenJackReed>

2:30 PM Senate Governmental Affairs subcommittee hearing on end of the year spending –

Federal Spending Oversight and Emergency Management Subcommittee hearing on 'Prudent Planning or Wasteful Binge? Another Look at End of the Year Spending', with testimony from Section 809 Panel Commissioner Dr Allan Burman; Mercatus Center at George Mason University Senior Research Fellow Dr Jason Fichtner; and Government Accountability Office Director of Strategic Issues Heather Krause Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 342, Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateHSGAC>

US House: 9:00 AM Dem Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee co-hosts event on ending all discrimination against all women and girls – 'Target One: Ending All Forms of Discrimination Against All Women and Girls Everywhere' – the inaugural event of a new breakfast series hosted by Democratic Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) exploring each element of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) #5, 'Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls'. Participants include University of Delaware Assistant Professor of Women and Gender Studies Dr Kara Ellerby, Smash Strategies partner Susan Markham, and IFES Director of Monitoring and Evaluation and Public Opinion Research Rakesh Sharma Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2045, Washington, DC www.ifes.org [#SDG5](https://twitter.com/IFES1987)

10:30 AM Pelosi, others ahead of HBCU Roundtable – House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, Congresswoman Alma Adams, Congressman Bobby Scott, and Members of the Congressional Black Caucus will deliver brief remarks ahead of a roundtable with Historically Black Colleges And Universities (HBCU) Presidents and Chancellors to discuss legislative priorities. Remarks will be delivered at the top of the meeting. Location: Gabe Zimmerman Room, HVC-215 Capitol Visitor Center The Capitol. <http://www.democraticleader.gov/> <https://twitter.com/NancyPelosi>

12:00 PM Pelosi Weekly briefing – Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi will hold her weekly press conference. Location: HVC Studio A (Enter through HVC-117), Capitol Visitor Center. <http://www.democraticleader.gov/> <https://twitter.com/NancyPelosi>

On recess until 25 September.

Other: 7:30 AM Air, Space & Cyber Conference continues with Defense Secretary Mattis keynote – Air Force Association Annual Air, Space & Cyber Conference and Technology Exposition continues, with final day keynote from U.S. Secretary of Defense James Mattis Location: Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center, 201 Waterfront St, National Harbor, MD National Harbor www.afa.org [#ASC17](https://twitter.com/AirForceAssoc)

8:00 AM U.S. Black Chambers Policy Breakfast – U.S. Black Chambers Policy Breakfast, with panel discussions on 'Doing Business with Corporate America', and 'Public Sector Contracting: Diverse Supply Chains on a Local Level'. Speakers include Democratic Rep. Cedric Richmond Location: NCTA – The Internet & Television Association, 25 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC www.usblackchambers.org <https://twitter.com/usblackchambers>

9:00 AM Department of Labor releases updated child labor report and apps – Department of Labor simultaneously releases an update to its annual child labor report, representing 'the most comprehensive research product to date on the state of child labor in over 130 countries worldwide'; a new app entitled 'Comply Chain', designed to help businesses root out child labor, forced labor, and modern slavery from global supply chains; and an updated version of the smartphone app 'Sweat & Toil', which contains information on goods produced by child labor or forced labor, and the latest findings on govts' efforts to address child labor (9:00 AM EDT) * Deputy Under Secretary of Labor for International Labor Affairs Martha Newton participates in briefing on the releases at the Washington Foreign Press Center, National Press Building, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC (11:00 AM EDT) Location: TBD <http://www.dol.gov> <https://twitter.com/USDOL>

11:30 AM HUD Secretary Carson pen-and-pad on hurricane recovery efforts – Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Ben Carson discusses HUD's role in the long-term recovery efforts for Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. Topics will include CDBG-DR funding, the timeline for recovery, and what people in the affected region can expect from HUD, via pen-and-pad with select reporters. Other participants include Associate General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Housing Janet Golrick, General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research Todd Richardson, and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Grant Programs Stan Gimont Location: Robert C. Weaver Federal Building, 451 7th St, Washington, DC <http://www.hud.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HUDNews>

2:00 PM Brookings Institution discussion on Saudi Arabia and 'Vision 2030' – 'Saudi Arabia looks forward: Vision 2030 and Mohammed bin Salman' Brookings Institution Intelligence project discussion, with Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs Senior Fellow Karen Elliott House discussing the findings from her new paper 'Saudi Arabia in Transition', which analyzes the

progress the Saudis have made and the challenges they face in implementing Vision 2030 – a plan to modernize its economy and society while allowing it to maintain its hold on power – amidst the recent changes in leadership Location: The Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.brookings.edu> <https://twitter.com/BrookingsInst>

8:00 PM Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Annual Celebration of Leadership in the Fine Arts – Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Annual Celebration of Leadership in the Fine Arts, honoring Spike Lee, Yolanda Adams and Simone Paulwell * Organized in cooperation with the Congressional Black Caucus Spouses Visual and Performance Arts Scholarship program Location: Sidney Harman Hall, 610 F St NW, Washington, DC www.cbcfinc.org <https://twitter.com/CBCFInc>

Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Legislative Conference – Congressional Black Caucus Foundation 47th Annual Legislative Conference, themed 'And Still I Rise'. Includes National Action Network panel discussion with NAN Founder and President Rev. Al Sharpton and Democratic Sen. Cory Booker on diversity in asset management (12:30 PM EDT) Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mt Vernon Pl, Washington, DC www.cbcfinc.org <https://twitter.com/CBCFInc> #CBCFALC17

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "[Donald Trump] spoke to the representatives of one people in the UN General Assembly. The President was a little bit disappointed. Usually when Donald Trump meets with representatives from different countries, there's a swimsuit competition, and they wear sashes. Instead, he was forced to make a speech."

Jimmy Kimmel: "Usually if Donald Trump wants to yell at that many foreigners in one day, he has to visit like nine of his construction sites."

Jimmy Kimmel: "[Donald Trump] said Kim Jong-Un was 'Rocket Man' on a suicide mission. If you want to insult Kim Jong-Un, maybe don't make it sound like he's an action-packed movie franchise. Just call him Kim."

Stephen Colbert: "Speaking of traveling, Donald Trump is on a trip to a very hostile region, New York City."

Stephen Colbert: "[Donald Trump is] in town because this morning, he gave his first official address at, I want to say, Starfleet Academy. Radical Klingon extremists. They violated the neutral zone. We had no choice."

Stephen Colbert: "We learned over the weekend that Trump lawyers are clashing over how much to cooperate with the Russia inquiry. If only those Trump lawyers were around when he decided how much to cooperate with Russia."

James Corden: "During the speech, Trump threatened to 'totally destroy North Korea,' which can only mean one thing: He's going to run for President of North Korea."

James Corden: "Donald Trump Jr. has decided to give up his Secret Service protection in order to have more privacy. He said it got annoying having Secret Service guys always standing around, listening in, and making it almost impossible for him to call Russia to receive further instructions."

Trevor Noah: "Trump's address included many familiar themes. How much great he's doing as President, how great the country is doing with him as President, how much he's President, did I mention he's President?"

Trevor Noah: "It is refreshing to see an American leader who is not going to dictate to the world. In fact, Donald Trump almost wants nothing to do with the world. It's like Trump looks at the globe and all he sees is a map full of Erics."

Trevor Noah: "So Trump's new policy, no interfering with how other countries are run, unless he doesn't like how other countries are run."

Jimmy Fallon: "President Trump gave his big speech at the UN General Assembly today, and at one point he threatened to totally destroy North Korea. He said he has a good plan to do it too. He's going to run for President of North Korea."

Seth Meyers: "Trump also said during his address that if North Korea continues working on its nuclear program, the US will have no choice but to totally destroy North Korea. Oh, my God. Trump is going to run for President of North Korea!"

Seth Meyers: "A lawyer who was part of the investigation that led to the impeachment trial of former President Bill Clinton recently said the Special Counsel, Robert Mueller, is trying to set a tone to, quote, 'strike terror in the hearts of people of Washington,' which used to be Steve Bannon's job."

Seth Meyers: "Senate Republicans led by Lindsey Graham and Bill Cassidy have revived the effort to repeal Obamacare. Again? Usually when a bad idea comes back this many times, Johnny Depp is in it."

Conan O'Brien: "Today at the UN, President Trump threatened to return immigrants to their home countries. After making those comments, he got a standing ovation from Melania. She wants to go home."

Copyright 2017 by Bulletin Intelligence LLC Reproduction or redistribution without permission prohibited. Content is drawn from thousands of newspapers, national magazines, national and local television programs, radio broadcasts, social-media platforms and additional forms of open-source data. Sources for Bulletin Intelligence audience-size estimates include Scarborough, GfK MRI, comScore, Nielsen, and the Audit Bureau of Circulation. Data from and access to third party social media platforms, including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and others, is subject to the respective platform's terms of use. Services that include Factiva content are governed by Factiva's [terms of use](#). Services including embedded Tweets are also subject to [Twitter for Website's information and privacy policies](#). The Department of the Interior News Briefing is published five days a week by Bulletin Intelligence, which creates custom briefings for government and corporate leaders. We can be found on the Web at BulletinIntelligence.com, or called at (703) 483-6100.